

LAMENT *of the* LAMB

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PARENTAL
ADVISORY

Volume 3 Kei Toume

LAMENT for LAMB

Manga
Barry Dumas
US \$1.99



After another attack of bloodlust, Kazuma's rage grows and he confesses to Chisuna the horror of his bloodthirsty dreams, which seem to be linked to his unconscious desires. With no cure for his vampirism in sight, Kazuma ponders ending it all. What is the point in living anyway--will he ever be able to rest in peace? Or is sleep really the cousin of death?

ISBN 146262627



www.tokyopop.com



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Lament of the Lamb Vol. 3

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First Published in Japan in 2002
by SHINSHO COMICS INC., TOKYO
English translation rights arranged with
SHINSHO COMICS INC., TOKYO through
TOHAI CORPORATION, TOKYO

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ISBN: 1-59182-862-7

First TOKYOPOP printing, September 2004

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

LAMENT *of the* LAMB.

VOL. 3

BY KEI TOUME



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO



The
Cops



MIYUKI

YAGOHARA

My name is Rengona Takahara. When I was a child, my mother died and my father disappeared. He took my older sister, Chigusa, with him. But he left me behind, to be raised by his friends, the Elms. I grew up never knowing where my father and Chigusa had gone. One day, in our high-school Art Club, I was hanging out with my friend, Yaguhara, when I caught sight of her blood-red portrait. It filled me suddenly with strange, terrifying desires. Coldly enough, it reminded me more of my family's abandoned home. Soon after, I realized that home and was shocked to find Chigusa living there. Now, suddenly, my long-lost sister revealed to me the darkest secret of our Takahara lineage: generations of our family have been under the curse of a strange disease. Of chaotic, unreasoning, vampire-like craving for blood. In shock and disbelief, I backed away into my old, routine life. But after I suffered another collapse, I sought out Chigusa again. Only, she found me. I was suffering horribly, and she justified my vile cravings by feeding me her own blood. She also gave me a mysterious medicine to drive off future attacks, a serum that a doctor, Miyuki, who was also my old friend of my father's, regularly smuggled in for her.

Chigusa told me how much she loved our father. But Chigusa trusted that father only returned her affections because she reminded him of our dead mother. Now I suspect that a lonely Chigusa looks to me to fill the emotional void left by father's suicide. Despite my trepidations, I've decided to live with Chigusa. After the last I can hide from the world, and everyone I love will be under poor Yaguhara. While in the throes of yet another attack, I told her about my strange disease. She was frightened and confused, but insisted that she still came along with me. My only fear is that she comes for me.



LAMENT *of the* LAMB

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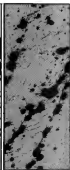
Control
it



Just past



How do I
block out
the image
of blood in
my mind?







Something
odd and
strange—a
dark urge
burrowing
deep inside
me.

No, it isn't
just that.
There's
something
else.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?
SHOULD
YOU BE
STANDING?



DOES
YOU SEE,
FALLAW?
I CAN'T BE
HIGH FOOT!

LET ME BE
WITH YOU,
AT LEAST!



I'M FIND
MYSELF,
IF I STAY ON
THE GROUND
PLAYING, I'LL
JUST DRAW
ATTENTION
TO MYSELF.

MAYBE
IF I HANG
ON LONG
ENOUGH,
I'LL BE
OKAY.
BUT I
WOULDN'T
BE ALONE.
THERE'RE
TOO MANY
PEOPLE
AROUND.









I CAN BE
WITH YOU,
RIGHT?

IF I
DO THIS
FOR
YOU



ISN'T
THIS WHAT
YOU WANT
WHAT YOU
NEED?



YAG-
SAH!!

PONY...



YOU SAID
THAT TO ME
IN THE ART
ROOM

YOU SAID
YOU DIDN'T
WANT TO
HURT ME

YOU SAID IT
YOURSELF,
PONY. YOU,
TAKASHI-
KUN?



AND
I BELIEVE
IT'S STILL
TRUE NOW

I
BELIEVE
YOU
THEN

NO!



BEFORE
I HURT
ANYBODY.

I JUST
WANT TO
VANISH
AND DIE
ALONE.

I WANTED YOU
TO HATE ME.
THAT WOULD BE
BETTER THAN
ME HURTING
YOU.

LOOK, I ADMIT,
I LIEP TO YOU,
ACTED LIKE
AN ASSHOLE...

BUT... I'VE
ALREADY
GIVEN UP...

0

...JUST SO
YOU WOULD
STAY AWAY
FROM ME.

IF I FEEL
FROM YOU,
I WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO
LIVE WITH
MYSELF...

See





TAKASHI-
KUN.



YOU
SCARED
ME AT
FIRST

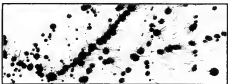
BUT I
NEVER
HATED
YOU.



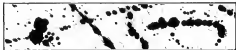
I'M
SORRY
YOU'RE
GOING
THROUGH
THIS

BUT I'M
NOT
GOING
TO
GIVE
UP
SO
EARLY















Can't let
them find
out about
his disease!

I can't
let this
happen

Oh, God
How do
I get
him out
of here?





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University Hospital

















KAZUMA
HASN'T BEEN
EATING LATELY
AND HE ALWAYS
LOOKS SO
PALE

I DON'T
THINK THIS
IS JUST
TRANSITION



WELL,
THANK'S,
YAGASHI.
SORRY FOR
ALL THE
TROUBLE

D-I'M
JUST GLAD I
WAS THERE
TO HELP



I FEEL
THERE'S SO
MUCH HE'S
BEEN KEEPING
FROM US

YAGASHI,
HAS ANYTHING
LIKE THIS EVER
HAPPENED AT
SCHOOL?



NOTICE
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

*They don't
listen?*

UH... NO
NOT
REALLY









WERE YOU
LOOK AT ME
AS IF I WERE
A GHOST



CHIDURAP
YOU MEAN
THAT
CHIDURAP-
CHAD?



OH...
NO PROBLEM
I JUST LOVE
VISITING
HOMMY AL'S



WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?







That was
the sister
Tadashiro
was
talking
about

That
was
her.



She
knew
all
about
his
illness



she
must
have
it
too

And
if
that's
his
sister...



THAT'S
WHEN
I
TOLD
HIM
ABOUT
HIS
FATHER,
ABOUT
HIS
PAST
EVERYTHING
THAT'S
BEEN
HIDDEN
FROM
HIM

A
FEW
MONTHS
AGO,
KAZUMA
VISITED
ME



SINCE
THEN, KAZURA
HAD COME TO
THE HOUSE
OFTEN



BUT,
AS HIS
SURVIVAL
GROW, HE
CAME TO
ACCEPT
IT



OF
COURSE,
AT FIRST,
HE DIDN'T
BELIEVE
ANY OF
IT



WAS THAT
OR THAT WHAT
MY FATHER
WANTED HIM
TO DO?



I SEE



NO... FATHER
DIDN'T WANT
KAZURA TO KNOW
ANYTHING. HE
WANTED HIM TO
LIVE AS NORMAL
A LIFE AS
POSSIBLE

BUT









I ALSO THINK
BROTHERS
AND SISTERS
SHOULD BE
TOGETHER. IT'S
A GOOD IDEA.

SHIN-
SABU?

SO,
WE'D LIKE
A HAND IN
HELPING YOU
TAKE CARE OF
THINGS.

BUT
YOU'RE BOTH
SO YOUNG.
YOU'RE ALIVE
AND I WILL
WORRY ABOUT YOU.

BUT
HE REALLY
WOULDN'T NEED
ANY HELP.

FORGIVE ME,
I DON'T MEAN
TO SOUND
UNCONFIDENTIAL.

BUT WITH
FATHER DEAD,
I AM NOW
KAZUYUKI'S
GUARDIAN.

THAT'S
KIND OF YOU,
UNCLE.



HE WON'T
WANT US TO
BE A BURDEN
TO ANYONE

I'M HARDLY A
CHILD, AFTER ALL
FOR MONEY, FATHER
WAS WISE TO PUT
FORTY ASHES FOR
THE BOTH OF US



KAZUHA,
YOU'RE
STILL
A CHILD.

BUT
THAT'S



AND
FATHER
RECOGNIZED
HIS
DEATH
THAT



I CAN'T
WATER TO THIS
KAZUHA WAS
NEVER A BURDEN
HE CARDED HIM
SINCE HE WAS
A CHILD



BUT NOW YOU
BOTH NEED TO
FORGET ABOUT
HIM. ABOUT
BOTH OF US







YOU'LL GET
REVENGE
IF YOU DON'T
TAKE A CHANCE
YOU'LL HAVE TO
TALK TO THEM,
THOUGH



I TRIED
WHAT YOU
SAID ABOUT
BLOCKING OUT
IMAGES, ABOUT
THINKING OF
SOMETHING
ELSE

I JUST
COULDN'T
DO IT...



NO

WHAT
CHOICE
DO I
HAVE?



I CAN'T JUST
SWITCH MY
FEELINGS OFF

I'M A
SIMPLE GUY
WHO CAN ONLY
SEE HEART'S IN
FRONT OF HIM



HE
COULDN'T
LIE TO
HIMSELF,
EITHER

YOU'RE
JUST LIKE
FATHER





YOU NEED
TO KNOW IT'S
JUST YOU
AND ME.

FROM
NOW ON...



FROM
NOW ON...

I'M
ALL YOU'LL
NEED



FORGET
HER. SO YOU
UNDERSTAND?
YOUR OLD LIFE
IS OVER.



ANYBODY
ELSE IS ONLY
GOING TO
GET HURT.

EVEN YOUR
"FRIEND"
ESPECIALLY
YOUR FRIEND



* knock knock







CHIZUNA-KUN
HAD PROBABLY
ALREADY TOLD
YOU THIS...

BUT
IT'S CRUCIAL
FOR YOU TO
RELY ON YOUR
WILLPOWER.



YOU COULD BE
ADMITTED TO THE
PSYCH HOSP., AND
THEY'LL PROBABLY
FIND YOUR BRAIN
ENOUGH TO KNOW
THAT YOU ARE
SERIOUSLY ill.

IF YOU
KEEP
HAVING
THESE
VIOLENT
ATTACKS...



I'M ALWAYS
HERE IF YOU
NEED TO TALK.

IT WON'T
BE EASY,
BUT IT'S
FOR YOUR
OWN GOOD.



I'LL WAIT
FOR YOU IN
THE PARKING
GARAGE.

UN-
HEH

GOOD.



SURE,
POE.







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YOU'RE
SO
QUIET

IS
SOME-
THING
TROUBLING
YOU?



TAKESHI
USUALLY
DOESN'T
WASTE
YOU

ONCE
YOU'VE
SET
YOUR
MIND
TO
SOME-
THING



I
AGREE
SEEING
KAZUNA
IN
HIS
CONDITION
CAN'T
BE
EASY
ON
YOU

I
FIGURED
IT
WAS
YOUR
LOVE
FOR
HIM,
WENT
HIS
SHORT

SO
I'VE
STARTED
QUIET



WHEN
DID
IT
HAPPEN?

WHAT
CHANGED
YOUR
MIND
ABOUT
KAZUNA
SO
FAST?





YOU MAY BE
A WOMAN NOW
BUT THAT HADN'T
CHANGED A
SHIT THING.

DO
YOU WANT
TO PLAY
THAT GAME
FO FOF?

I'VE KNOWN
YOU SINCE YOU
WERE A GIRL.

I'M STILL
THE ONLY ONE
IN THIS WORLD
LOOKING OUT
FOR YOU.

IT
KEEP THAT
IN MIND
BEFORE YOU
PUT ME
AWAY.





I FEAR
YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING. I'LL
SEE YOU
TOMORROW
AT THE
HOSPITAL.

I CAN
SEE NO
WAY OUT.



My mind is
repressed—
it feels as
hard as
stone. But my
heart longs
to cry.

I just want
to leave
Kazune...
That is
the truth.

And even
if he is a
replacement
for Father,
he doesn't
need to
know.



These
feelings.
This
strange
house. And
only my
heart to
guide me.

And let
my life
not be
Kazune's
copy, but
my own!

Who can't
I be free
to love as
I please?





SHIZUNA LISTEN
SHE'LL BE UNDER
THE BEST
PSYCHIATRIC CARE
AT MY UNIVERSITY'S
HOSPITAL

THEY CAN
LOOK AFTER
HER AND
GIVE THE
NECESSARY
TREAT



YOU WANT
TO TAKE
SHIZUNA
FROM ME,
RIGHT?



BUT
THEN I
DECIDED
AGAINST

I WON'T
HAVE MY
FATHER
TURNED INTO
A GUNNER FIG
FOR A TEAM
OF GUARDS

I HOPE
HE UNDER-
STANDS EACH
OTHER



IT'S THE
BEST THING
FOR SHIZUNA
TREAT ME

I GRADUATE NEXT
YEAR, AFTER THAT,
I'LL STAY ON AND
PRACTICE AT THE
HOSPITAL FOR
A WHILE



I'VE
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT
MYSELF, YOU
KNOW, MAKING
A DOCTOR
IS WHAT
SHE NEEDS



I APPRE-
CIATE YOUR
LOOKING
OUT FOR
HER



I KNOW YOU
CARE FOR HER
BUT I'M HER
FATHER



LET'S
LEAVE IT
AT THAT

SO
BE IT,
SHIZUNA



SHIZUNA



ALL THE
RESPECT,
BUT CHIZUNA
NEEDS HELP
THAT YOU
CAN'T GIVE



WHAT SHE NEEDS
IS A REAL LIFE
AWAY FROM HERE.
WHERE SHE'S
SHUT OUT FROM
THE WORLD.



SHE
CANNOT
TRUST THE
WORLD, BUT
SHE CAN
TRUST HER
FATHER



DO YOU
KNOW HOW
MUCH SHE
LONGS FOR A
REAL LIFE?



THAT'S NOT
UP TO YOU
SHIZUKA



ONE OF
THESE
DAYS, I
WILL...

I WILL
GET HER
OUT OF
HERE!









YOU'VE TALKED
ABOUT GOING
BACK TO YOUR
HOUSE IN
TOKYO.

CHIDANA-
CHAN ?



NOT
EXACTLY.



WELL,
BUT THAT
WAS JUST A
DREAM I HAD.



FORGET ABOUT
YOUR FATHER.
THAT'S WHY
YOU HAVE TO
GO ON YOUR
OWN.

BY
MYSELF?



I'M NEVER
GOING TO
SEE THAT
OLD HOUSE
AGAIN.

FATHER
WOULDN'T
WANT TO GO
ANYWHERE
NEAR TOKYO
AGAIN.





AS I'VE
GOTTEN OLDER...

...I'M
BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND



HE'S KEPT
ME FROM THE
WORLD



GET AWAY!
YOU CAN'T
STAY HERE!

IT'S
TIGER!

I'LL
TAK
CARE OF YOU
IN TOKYO



I KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING
TO DO

I KNOW
HOW YOU
FEEL ABOUT
MY FATHER
AND ABOUT
ME

I KNOW
WHAT YOU
WANT TO
DO









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University Hospital











IT'S HORRIBLE
'CAUSE I NEVER
EVER WANT
TO HURT THIS
PERSON

AND
SUPPORT,
AND ONLY
AROUND
THIS ONE
PERSON

...THE
SIGHT AND
SMELL OF
BLOOD
OVERWHELMS
ME

I'LL JUST BE
TALKING WITH
THIS PERSON
ONE MINUTE

GO ON



I HAD THIS
DREAM

WHEN
I WAS BITING
HER NECK
AND THERE
WAS LOTS
OF BLOOD...



DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEAS WHY
THAT MIGHT
BE HAPPEN-
ING?

MAYBE
AN INCIDENT
THAT CON-
NECTS THIS
PERSON
WITH
BLOOD?



I-I CAN'T
ACCEPT
IT. MUCH
LESS TALK
ABOUT IT



MAYBE
THE ATTACKS
WERE 'CAUSE I
CAN'T SHARE
THE DREAM



I STUDIED
PSYCHOLOGY
IN MED
SCHOOL, SO
I THINK I
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
GETTING
AT

GRANTED,
IT'S NOT
MY AREA OF
EXPERTISE,
BUT...

THERE'S
ANOTHER
POSSIBILITY,
THOUGH AND IT
TROUBLES ME
EVEN MORE



DO YOU
THINK OF IT
OFTEN?

...PROBABLY
MEANS THAT
YOU GREATLY
FEAR THAT
HAPPENING

...THE
FACT THAT
YOU HAD
A DREAM
IN WHICH
YOU HURT
HIM...



IT'S BEEN
HUNTING ME
EVER SINCE.
A REAL
NIGHTMARE.



ALL OUR
DREAMS,
EVEN OUR
NIGHTMARES,
SHOW US
WHAT WE
DEEPLY WANT.

HE SAID
DREAMS
REFLECT OUR
REPPRESSED
DESIRES.

THE FAMOUS
PSYCHIATRIST
DIAMOND
FIELD HAD
A THEORY
ABOUT
DREAMS.



IT CAN'T
ACCOUNT
FOR EVERY
INDIVIDUAL.
THE WAY HE
PROCESS-ES
EMOTIONS
VARIES FROM
PERSON TO
PERSON.



ACCORDING TO
THIS THEORY,
THE BITE OF
YOUR FRIEND
THE BLOOD AND
SO FORTH.

THE
IMAGES
CREATED
BY THE
SUPPRESSED
DESIRES
LOOKING IN
YOUR SUB-
CONSCIOUS
MIND.

BUT, LIKE
I SAID,
IT'S JUST
A THEORY.



TH- THAT
CAN'T BE?
I WOULD
NEVER.

YOU
DON'T
REAL-
?



FREUD HAD A THEORY ABOUT THAT, TOO.

HE ARGUED THAT LOVE AND DESTRUCTIVENESS CO-EXIST INSIDE ALL OF US.

YOU MEAN IF YOUR DESIRES WERE DIRECTED SOLELY TOWARD, SAY, A GIRL?

YOU KNOW SOMEBODY YOU LOVE?

WHAT IF YOUR EMOTIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED BY A CERTAIN PERSON?

BUT IT'S ULTIMATELY OUR DESIRES THAT DETERMINE WHICH SIDE DOMINATES.

THEY ARE CONTINUALLY AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER.

I SHOULD TELL TO MY OTHER PATIENTS: CHINA-KUN SHOULD BE HERE SOON.

WARNING: DON'T MISS CHINA-KUN BECAUSE I FEELING FOR YOU. JOE BROODS WANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR "WANTS" AND YOUR "NEEDS" ARE EXTREME.

IN ANY CASE, IT'S BEST TO AVOID CONTACT WITH WHOEVER'S TRIGGERING THOSE SYMPTOMS.

I'M NOT SAYING FREUD'S NECESSARILY RIGHT, BUT IT'S SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.



IN ANY CASE,
IT'S BEST
TO AVOID
CONTACT WITH
ANYONE'S
FOLLOWING
THEIR
STAFF'S DEED



Destroy
Coverage?

Does my
Takeshara
Hood
awaken
these
hidden
desires? Or
is it the
other way
around?

Sorry,
Yuu-
guchi.
It's for
the
best.







I wonder if Katsura-
kun would
come





*It's the
only
way to
keep the
ones
I care
about.*

*... safe
from
what
dawns
inside
me.*

*Forget
about
them.
Forget
it all.*





Please
Yagasaki
get over
me...

As long as
we have
feelings
for each
other,
these
attacks
will
continue.





CAN YOU
HELP ME
OUT WITH
THIS?

KACHA-
KUN, DO
YOU HAVE
A MIRROR?

I JUST
FICKED
MY
FINGER

WELL, WE
HAPPEN

WHAT HIGH
SCHOOL
ARE YOU
GOING
TO?
FALLAVALLEY?

THAT'S
NOTED

WOW, YOU
DON'T SE
SHAME

EASY
HIGH

NOT REALLY
I BET YOU
COULD GET
IN JUST
AS EASY

YOU
THINK
SO?

OH,
YEAH I
HAVE A
FEELING
ABOUT YOU









~~~~~











MOST OF THE JUNK  
I OWN,  
I DON'T NEED

I'M GOING  
STICK TO THE  
BASICS AND  
THROW 'EM  
INTO A BAG.



HOW MUCH  
DO YOU  
HAVE?



YOU'RE  
RIGHT

I'M NOT  
EXACTLY  
SHIN AND  
MATSUOKA'S  
FAVORITE  
"VEGET"



I'M GO  
WITH YOU.



IT'S  
BETTER  
I GO  
ALONG

NO,  
I'M SORRY

I'VE  
CLEANED OUT  
FATHER'S  
PEN.

YOU'LL  
FIND A  
DESK AND  
BOOKSHELF  
IN THERE.

I'VE SET  
ASIDE A  
SPECIAL  
ROOM FOR  
YOU.

I JUST  
WISH  
YOU'D  
GET IN AND  
GET OUT.

SOUNDS  
GOOD.

I'LL  
DEAL  
WITH IT  
TOMOR-  
ROW.

I JUST  
TIPSED IT UP,  
SO DON'T  
TRASH THE  
PLACE.

天  
斗











CHIZUNA!



MAKE  
YOURSELF  
AT HOME

I'M GOING  
TO FIX UP  
SOMETHING TO  
EAT. NOTHING  
FANCY,  
JUST--



GO UP DOWN  
YOU PROBABLY  
GOT A BIT TOO  
MUCH SEX



A-ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

DON'T  
WORRY, THIS  
IS NORMAL



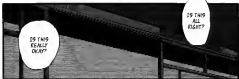


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AHEAD?



I  
I GUESS  
I DID.

I GUESS  
I'M  
FEELING...



I CAN'T HEAR  
MY HEAD  
AROUND IT.

YEAH,  
AHEAD



WHY  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT?

THERE'S  
NOTHING HE  
CAN DO.



LEAVING  
BEHIND MY  
OLD LIFE  
WHAT'S  
GONNA  
HAPPEN TO  
ME NOW?

THE  
FUTURE  
SCARES  
ME



DONT  
THINK LESS  
OF ME, DEAR  
BROTHER.

BUT I  
HAVE KILLED  
BEFORE  
AND I WILL  
AGAIN.



YOU'RE...

...AFRAID  
OF ME,  
AREN'T YOU?



UNFORTUNATELY  
YOU HARDLY KNOW ME.  
SIBINGS ARE USUALLY  
A LOT CLOSER TO  
EACH OTHER.

YOU'RE SCARED,  
CAUSE A GIRL  
SAYING SHE'S  
YOUR SISTER  
CAME ALONG  
AND NOW HOLDS  
YOUR FUTURE  
IN HER HANDS.



THERE'S  
SO MUCH  
I HAVE  
TO SHARE  
WITH YOU,  
KAZUMA.

AND I  
HAVE  
MANY  
SE-  
CRETS.



DON'T  
BE AFRAID  
OF ME

AFTER ALL,  
WE'RE  
THE SAME,  
YOU AND I.



IT'S AN  
UNAVOIDABLE  
LITTLE  
TRAGEDY.

WE SIMPLY  
CAN'T LIVE  
WITHOUT THE  
BLOOD OF  
OTHERS



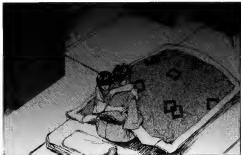
WARM,  
PLEASURING,  
HUMAN  
BLOOD.















IT'S NOT JUST  
THE TAKASHIRO  
BLOOD DOING  
THIS

IT'S YOUR  
FEAR OF ME



I MURDERED  
HIM

MANY TIMES  
IN MY DREAMS





I WAS TERRIFIED  
BUT I WAS  
READY TO  
FIGHT THEN...  
HE JUST  
LET GO

ONE NIGHT,  
I WOKED AWAKE...  
AND THERE WAS  
FATHER. HIS FACE  
WASN'T WHERE I EXPECTED  
BEHIND MY BACK.  
SILENTLY STRANGLING  
THE LIFE OUT OF ME.



PEOPLE  
DON'T KILL OUT  
OF HATE... THEY  
STRIKE FROM A  
PLACE OF  
FEAR.

I DIDN'T  
UNDERSTAND IT  
BACK THEN, BUT  
I'M STARTING  
TO NOW .

BUT I-I  
SOMHOW  
STILL LOVED  
FATHER,  
YOU KNOW  
THAT  
EVEN SO,  
I KILLED  
HIM OVER  
AND OVER  
AGAIN IN MY  
DREAMS



I KILL  
BECAUSE  
I'M SCARED



THEN, YOU TURNED AROUND...



... THAT YOU HAD NO FEELINGS FOR ME. THAT EVEN AS YOUR BROTHER, I MEANT NOTHING TO YOU.



BUT...

... YOU DO CONFUSE ME.



SO HERE I AM.

BUT, THEN...





I WENT  
THROUGH SO  
MUCH PAIN  
SO MUCH  
DESPERATION. I  
DON'T GIVE A  
FANCY ANYMORE  
IF THE WHOLE  
WORLD EYED  
ABOUT THE  
TAKAHASHI  
DISEASE.

AFTER  
FATHER DIED,  
I WENT  
THROUGH  
THE WORST  
LONELINESS  
AND ANGER.

WE MIGHT  
AS WELL BE  
STRANGERS,  
I THOUGHT.  
IT WOULD BE  
EASIER TO  
FORGIVE YOU  
THAT WAY.

I USED  
TO THINK  
IT DIDN'T  
MATTER  
THAT WE  
WERE  
BROTHER  
AND  
SISTER.



I SHUT THE WORLD  
OUT OF MY LIFE.  
LIKE A DYING PERSON,  
CONTENT TO JUST  
LOOK AWAY AND  
SUFFER IN THE  
SOLITUDE.



DID YOU  
PROMISE TO  
HELP ME...

...BECAUSE  
I REMIND  
YOU OF  
FATHER?

AND I  
CERTAINLY DON'T  
CARE IF YOU  
WERE SUFFERING.  
BUT I REALIZED  
I CAN'T DO  
THIS ALONE.



I JUST CAN'T  
LET HIM GO

AND  
MY ANGER  
HAD LEFT  
A SCAR  
INSIDE ME

I AM  
FATHER-  
LESS



I-E DON'T  
KNOW

WHEN I FIRST  
SAW YOU,  
I THOUGHT  
OF HIM. THAT  
WAS FAMILIAR



I'LL HAVE  
YOU UP WHEN  
BREAKFAST  
IS READY

YOU'RE GOING  
TO GO GET  
YOUR THINGS  
TOMORROW,  
RIGHT?



LET'S GO  
BACK TO  
SLEEP



DID THAT  
REALLY  
HAPPEN...?  
DID FATHER  
REALLY...?



CHIZUKA



HE  
MAY HAVE  
PLANNED TO  
KILL ME  
AND THEN  
HIMSELF...



YES  
HE DID



MAYBE HE THOUGHT  
HE COULD END MY  
SUFFERING... A MISTAKE  
KILLING, BUT IT  
WAS FATHER WHO  
TRULY SUFFERED

HE COULDN'T  
LIVE WITH  
ME, AND HE  
COULDN'T LIVE  
WITH HIMSELF



SOON  
AFTER, HE  
COMMITTED  
SUICIDE









Even if  
Father  
crushed my  
neck with  
all his  
strength...





"If Father  
wants me  
dead,  
I thought,  
"I'll submit  
to his will."



"I still  
couldn't  
have  
struggled  
a single  
bit."



Even if  
he hated  
me, you  
don't hit  
someone  
because  
you hate  
them.

You hit  
because  
you fear.

He-ko  
didn't  
hate  
me.



I thought  
that once.  
But I  
knew it is  
not true.

My burden  
was real.  
So was my  
guilt for  
not being  
the woman  
he yearned  
for.

Father  
was  
afraid  
of me.



"I can  
never be  
Mother."

"It's too  
heavy a  
burden  
on me,  
Father."

"I know you  
hate me,  
deep down.  
I know  
you do."



In a way,  
he did  
kill me...

...by leaving  
me behind...  
all alone

I wish his  
warm hands  
had stayed  
the life  
out of me.

Or did he  
fear my  
disease  
was a too  
great a  
burden?



He  
loved  
me.

Maybe  
that's  
why he  
killed  
himself.



WHOSO SHEDDETH MAN'S BLOOD,  
BY MAN SHALL HIS BLOOD BE SHED...

--GENESIS 9:6

A CHILD WITH A MOLE IN  
THE PATH OF THEIR TEARS  
IS DESTINED TO HAVE A SORROWFUL  
LIFE FULL OF TEAR.

--JAPANESE PROVERB



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I  
shouldn't  
be doing  
an  
attack!

What?  
I  
The  
business  
again.



This  
the  
feels  
strange...

I just  
took the  
medicine  
this  
morning...



I-I'm  
okay...

Need  
to stay  
calm.





Need to  
steady  
myself.  
Hard to  
stand.

This is  
more  
recovery.



It's  
different  
than my  
usual  
attacks...

It  
was like  
this last  
night,  
too...



It's the  
summer...  
probably.  
It must be  
getting  
to me.

I might  
be wiped  
out from  
the heat.





780A













WE'RE SO  
IN THE DARK  
ABOUT YOUR  
FUTURE

ALL WE  
WANTED  
WAS TO  
HEAR  
FROM YOU.

WHAT  
WE LEARNED  
AT THE HOSPITAL  
HAD YOUR  
UNCLE AND I  
PRETTY MISMATCHED  
BUT WHAT  
HAPPENS NOW?



I STOPPED  
WORK THIS  
MORNING

...ON  
THE CHANCE  
YOU'D  
SHOW UP



WE DON'T  
WANT TO  
FEEL  
YOU FROM  
MOVING  
INTO THE  
TAKASHIRO  
HOUSE

WE FEEL  
GOOD ABOUT  
YOU AND YOUR  
SISTER FINDING  
EACH OTHER



YOU WERE  
GOING TO  
LEAVE  
WITHOUT  
SAYING  
ANYTHING.  
WEREN'T  
YOU?

YOUR  
THROWING  
UP NOW  
ISN'T A  
GOOD  
TRICK



YOU KNOW,  
KAZUHA



I-I'M  
SORRY

YOU'VE  
ALWAYS  
KEPT SECRETS  
FROM US.

THEN AGAIN,  
IT'S JUST  
LIKE YOU,  
ISN'T IT?



WHY  
DON'T YOU  
TELL US  
SHE WAS  
BACK?

BUT WHY  
DON'T  
YOU TELL  
US ABOUT  
CHIDEN?



TRUST  
US AT  
ALL?

DO YOU  
NOT ...



I COULD  
SAY THE  
SAME FOR  
YOU





ABOUT  
DAD'S DEATH,  
AND OUR  
FAMILY'S  
LITTLE  
BLUES.  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
ALL THAT,  
RIGHT?

YOU TWO  
HAVE BEEN  
KEEPING THINGS  
FROM ME MY  
WHOLE LIFE,  
RIGHT?



AM ...



I WANTED  
YOU TO  
FORGET ...



IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.  
I KNOW  
THE LINE.

YOU  
WANTED  
TO PROTECT  
ME FROM  
IT ALL.



WE WERE  
ONLY  
TRYING ...



YOUR  
FATHER WAS A  
WALL BETWEEN  
US. I HATED  
TO DESTROY IT.  
FATHER  
IT WASN'T  
THESE

I THOUGHT  
ADOPTING  
YOU WOULD  
GIVE US  
A FRESH  
START



I WAS  
GOING TO  
TELL YOU  
IN THE  
BEGINNING.  
PLEASE ME.

BUT YOU  
NEVER ASKED  
ABOUT YOUR  
FATHER OR  
MOTHER... SO I  
REMAINED SILENT



ABOUT LEAVING  
YOU AND  
CHIZUNA ALONE.  
FORGETTING  
ABOUT BOTH  
OF YOU?

I TELL  
ME THAT  
SHE DIDN'T  
MEAN  
THAT...



KAZUNA  
?

WHAT  
CHIZUNA-CHAN  
SAID IN THE  
HOSPITAL.  
SHE DIDN'T  
MEAN THAT,  
DID SHE?



HE WORRY  
ABOUT YOU,  
YOU KNOW



IT'S TRUE.  
HE KNOW  
WHAT THE  
TAKASHIROS  
SUFFER  
FROM

DO YOU  
THINK THAT  
CHANGES  
HOW HE FEEL  
ABOUT YOU?



THEN DON'T  
YOU FEEL  
THE LEAST BIT  
SORRY FOR  
WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING?

TELL ME  
YOU DO.



GUESS NOT.





BUT CUTTING  
US OFF IN  
THE BARGAIN  
IS TOTALLY  
UNFAIR AND  
IRRATIONAL

I KNOW THE  
POMP YOU FEEL  
WITH CADURA  
BUT NOW  
PROVE YOU  
TO MAKE THIS  
DECISION



ALL WE'VE  
EVER  
WANTED  
HAS FOR  
YOU TO BE  
RAFFY

WE'VE  
NEVER  
THOUGHT  
OF YOU  
AS A  
MURDER



CADURA



I'M ONLY  
TAKING A  
FEW CLOTHES,  
FOODS, SOME  
ODDS AND  
ENDS

YOU  
CAN DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU WANT  
WITH THE  
REST

PLEASE TELL  
UNCLE SHIN  
I'M SORRY  
FOR KEEPING  
HIS STEERD  
FOR SO LONG





THIS IS  
ABOUT LOVE  
AND TRUST.  
ISNT IT?



DONT  
YOU TRUST  
ME?

I'M SO  
LOST



WHY  
ARE YOU  
BEING SO  
STUBBORN?

WHY?



KAREN!







I'M  
THANKFUL FOR  
EVERYTHING  
YOU'VE DONE.

BUT  
YOU'VE  
LEFT MY  
FAMILY



I'M  
SORRY  
ABOUT  
THIS...

IT'S  
NOT YOUR  
FAULT.



PROBABLY  
DID A LONG  
TIME AGO, BUT  
I COULDN'T  
SWEE...

ACT  
ON IT

I  
MADE  
UP MY  
MIND.

THERE'S NO  
REASON FOR  
ME TO BE  
HERE AND FOR  
YOU TO TAKE  
RESPONSIB-  
ILITY.



I REMEMBER  
FEELING THIS  
WAY WHEN  
I WAS JUST  
A KID







WE LIVE  
AND DIE  
TOGETHER...  
THAT'S THE  
TACENARD  
DESTINY...  
WENT IT?



I DON'T  
KNOW

IT'S BE LIVING  
IF I SAID I  
DON'T HAVE  
MY POINTS



AND THAT'S  
SOMETHING  
I CAN'T  
CHANGE

BUT...  
WE SHARE  
THE SAME  
BLOOD



WHAT  
HAPPENS  
BETWEEN ME  
AND CHICHA  
IS *OUR*  
PROBLEM

YOU THINK  
OUR LIVING  
TOGETHER'S A  
BAD SOLUTION  
MAY I SEE IT,  
THOUGH, IT'S  
THE *ONLY*  
SOLUTION



COULD  
ANY-  
BODY  
RESCUE  
HER.

...DO  
ANYTHING  
TO SAVE  
HER?

KATSUKO,  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT MY  
MOTHER,  
RIGHT?

HAD  
YOU  
PAINTING  
TAKEN A  
BLEAK  
PICTURE?



EVERY DAY  
COULDN'T DO  
A PAINT THING  
FOR HER.

HER MIND  
WAS LOST,  
HER SPIRIT  
WAS BROKEN.



I'M NOT GONNA  
BE MISERABLE  
BUT I'M NOT  
GONNA BE  
NAIVELY HOPEFUL,  
EITHER.

MY  
STRENGTH  
WILL BE IN  
LETTING GO.

TO ANSWER  
YOUR  
QUESTION,  
I'M NOT  
GIVING UP.

I'M JUST  
ACCEPTING  
THE PREVI-  
TABLE.

I THINK  
TAKEMI'S  
MORE TO  
THIS.

I NEED  
TO KNOW  
WHAT'S  
YOU KEPT  
FROM US?

KAZUMA?





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SOMEONE  
YOU COULD  
TRUST?  
SOMEONE YOU  
WOULD HOPEFULLY  
BLINDLY LOVE  
YOU BACK?

I  
REMEMBER  
HOW COLD  
THIS PLACE  
ALWAYS FELT—  
LIKE A PADDING  
HOSPITAL  
WARD?



ALWAYS  
AND SPOKE  
BUT HE  
NEEDS JUST  
PLAYING  
ALONG.

WHO THE  
HELL DID YOU  
THINK YOU  
WERE KIDNAPING?  
WHAT WAS  
IT YOUR PET  
DOG?

I  
JUMPED  
WHEN YOU  
TOLD ME  
TO AND  
GOT MY  
BONE AS  
A PRIZE

AND  
SO IT  
WENT  
FOR  
YEARS

WHAT  
A JOKE!  
I'M BACK  
TO DEATH  
OF IT,  
AND I'M  
THROUGH!







*Sorry*



*I'm sorry.*



*I didn't mean it.  
Not all of it, anyway.*

*IF UNCLE  
AND AUNTIE  
PICKED IT  
OUT, IT'S  
GONNA BE  
ANYONE'S!*

*A  
BIRTHDAY  
PRESENT?*



*My past...*

*IT'S CLOSE  
TO HOME,  
AND A FRIEND  
OF MINE'S  
GOING, TOO*

*UNCLE, I'M  
APPLYING  
TO THE  
METROPOLITAN  
SCHOOL*



*... is now a life I must keep buried forever.*











CHIZUNA.  
ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?



IT'S TOO  
MUCH TO BEAR.  
I DON'T WANT  
TO LIVE IF I  
HAVE TO FEEL  
LIKE THIS...

I DON'T  
THINK...  
I CAN'T  
DO THIS,  
CHIZUNA.



HURTING  
PEOPLE I  
LOVE... AND  
GETTING  
THEM ALL  
OFF.

CHIZUNA,  
YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
LEAVING  
MY WHOLE  
LIFE.

IS THIS  
WHAT IT  
REALLY  
TAKES...  
FOR ONE  
KIND TO  
SURVIVE?



SHE'S  
NEVER  
LOOKED  
SO SAD  
BEFORE.

SHE'S  
NEVER  
TALKED  
TO ME  
THAT WAY...  
SO HEART-  
BROKEN.



SOMEONE  
WAS  
HOMER?

CHIZUNA



IT'S NOT  
LIKE THERE'S  
A FUTURE FOR  
EITHER OF US.

WHAT GOOD  
IS IT, THEN?  
WHAT'S THE  
POINT OF  
LIVING?



THERE'S  
NO CURSE  
WE'LL  
NEVER  
BE RID  
OF OUR  
CURSE.

AND YOU  
INSIST THAT  
WE TORTURE  
OURSELVES BY  
LIVING!



HEY...





WHAT'RE  
YOU  
TRYING  
TO TELL  
ME?

WHAT...



HANG ON







KAIKEN?



DON'T  
DO IT!

I SAID  
I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH...



YOU'LL  
LOSE  
YOUR  
MIND  
BEFORE  
THAT!



A TINY  
LITTLE  
THREAD

AND IF  
I LET GO,  
I'LL DIE,  
WOULDN'T I?



I'M NOT  
LIKE YOU  
I CAN'T LIVE  
THIS WAY

I-I  
CAN'T  
KEEP YOU  
LIKE A STUCK  
PIG EVERY TIME  
I HAVE AN  
ATTACK

IT'S  
TOO MUCH  
TO BEAR

IT'S  
ON THE  
BLOOD  
FEAST

THAT'S  
FINE  
NO POINT IN  
FIGHTING  
IT



KAIKEN?











AND YOU JUST  
LET HIM LEAVE?

I GAVE HIM  
OUR SIDE OF  
IT, TOLD HIM  
HOW HE FELT  
ABOUT HIM

WHAT  
ELSE COULD  
I DO?



BUT HE  
DON'T  
WANT  
TO  
HEAR  
IT.  
  
AFTER  
ALL,  
HE'S  
NOT  
HIS  
REAL  
PARENTS



I THOUGHT  
THINGS WERE  
GOING WELL.  
I THOUGHT  
WE COULD  
BECOME A  
REAL FAMILY...

BUT I GUESS  
BLOOD TIES  
ARE STRONGER  
THAN ANY BOND  
WE SHARED



AND HE'S  
NOT OUR  
REAL SON,  
EITHER



IS THAT  
WHAT  
HE SAID?



I DON'T REMEMBER  
EVER  
FIGHTING  
WITH HIM...

...BEFORE  
THIS  
MORNING...



I REALIZED THAT  
JUST NOW HE  
NEVER FOUGHT

BUT  
TODAY...



I WONDER  
HOW I WOULD  
HAVE FELT IF  
I HAD BEEN  
HIS REAL  
MOTHER?

I  
REGRETTED IT  
IMMEDIATELY,  
WATCHING  
HIM LEAVE.

I  
GOT SO  
ANGRY...  
I HIT  
HIM.



BUT THERE  
WAS SOMETHING  
MISSING... WE NEVER  
STAY TOGETHER...  
NEVER GOT ANY...  
NEVER SHARED  
OUR EMOTIONS...

WE PUT IN ALL  
THOSE YEARS, BUT  
MAYBE IT WAS ALL  
FOR NOTHING. MAYBE  
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR US TO BE A  
HEALTHY FAMILY.

IT'S  
HARD TO  
SAY...

BUT FOR  
TEN YEARS, HE  
RAISED HIM AND  
I TRIED TO BE  
HIS MOTHER  
THROUGH EVERY  
MINUTE.



FEAR  
YOU'VE  
ELST.



THAT'S  
WHY I'M NOT  
SO CONFIDENT  
HE'LL *EVER*  
COME BACK.

I  
JUST FORT  
THINK I CAN  
COMPETE...  
—WITH  
THE  
SHADOW  
OF HIS  
REAL  
NOTICE.

IT'S LIKE  
SHIGEMU-SAN AND  
MORIKO-SAN  
HAVE RISEN FROM  
THE GRAVE...  
AND RETURNED HOME.

I REALIZED  
TODAY HOW  
MUCH HE  
LOOKS LIKE  
HIS FATHER  
AND THEN IT  
STROCK ME.